



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 8 August 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to the Gallup Independent, the Gallup, New Mexico, Wastewater Treatment Plant has received an “unsatisfactory” rating from the state in six of seven categories pertaining to its federal discharge permit. (See item [20](#))
- IDG News Service reports that the security researcher who discovered a major flaw with the Internet’s Domain Name System has revealed the full details of the flaw, which he describes as the worst Internet security hole since 1997. (See item [34](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 7, Bloomberg* – (International; National) **Crude oil rises as Turkey says pipeline repair may take 2 weeks.** Crude oil rose for the first time in four days after Turkey said a pipeline carrying crude to the Mediterranean from Azerbaijan may remain shut for two weeks following an explosion on August 5. The pipeline is able to ship one million barrels a day, the governor of the Erzincan province, where the blast occurred, said Thursday. A Kurdish separatist group claimed responsibility for bombing the line, which is still burning. “This is a global market, so it does have an impact” around the world, said the president of Connecticut-based Cameron Hanover Inc. Crude oil for September delivery rose \$1.97, or 1.7 percent, to \$120.55 a barrel at 10:47 a.m. on the

New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier, the contract touched \$121.78 a barrel. Pipeline operator BP Plc canceled export obligations. Output from Russia and the other former Soviet states averaged 12.8 million barrels a day in 2007, including 868,000 barrels a day from Azerbaijan, according to the BP Statistical Review of World Energy. The U.S. imported 68,000 barrels a day from Azerbaijan in May, according to the latest data from the Energy Department.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aZc9N9eZlITM&refer=energy>

2. *August 6, Reuters* – (International; National) **Nigeria pipelines repaired after attacks-minister.** Oil companies have repaired two major Nigerian pipelines damaged in militant attacks last week, allowing some production to resume in the restive Niger Delta, the oil minister told Reuters on Wednesday. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), which has led a campaign of violence against the oil sector since early 2006, claimed responsibility for the attacks that halted 150,000 barrels per day (bpd) of output in the world's eighth largest oil exporter. Nigeria's vice president on Monday said Nigeria was losing an average of 650,000 bpd of production, helping push global oil prices to record highs. Royal Dutch Shell, the operator of the pipelines, could not confirm the repairs. Both pipelines are connected to the Bonny export terminal. Oil from the facility is popular in the United States and Europe because it is easily refined into gasoline, diesel, and other crude products.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSL653049920080806?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

3. *August 5, Reuters* – (Alaska) **Alaska seeks to reverse U.S. polar bear decision.** The state of Alaska has sued the U.S. government, arguing that listing polar bears as a threatened species will hurt Alaskan oil and gas exploration, fisheries, and tourism. The lawsuit, filed on Monday in federal court in Washington, seeks the withdrawal of a May 14 decision to list the big Arctic bears as threatened under the Endangered Species Act because climate change is melting their sea ice habitat. "Additional regulation of the species and its habitat under the Endangered Species Act will deter activities such as commercial fisheries, oil and gas exploration and development, transportation and tourism within and off-shore of Alaska," the lawsuit said. Greenpeace, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Center for Biological Diversity are seeking to intervene in the case.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSN0539708420080805?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *August 6, Associated Press* – (Kentucky) **Ky. weapons depot reports second mustard gas leak.** Officials at a chemical weapons stockpile in Kentucky suspect rising summer

temperatures are partly responsible for the second mustard gas leak in less than two weeks after the storage site went three years without one. Like the previous leak detected on July 28 at a separate storage igloo, the one found Wednesday at Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond was only a low concentration of the blister agent and not considered dangerous to the community or environment. Mustard agent is among the least lethal of the Cold War-era munitions housed at the depot and other storage sites, and is set to be destroyed no later than 2017 to comply with an international treaty.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gYmnRjXCHwFNYyig9mzQ-cTkfajwD92D1JR86>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *August 7, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (New York) **Safety parameter display system assessment lost.** On Wednesday, the reactor operator at-the-controls at the Nine Mile Point nuclear plant discovered that the safety parameter display system (SPDS) computer display was not updating data. This was discovered during periodic control room panel walkdowns. The last data update on the SPDS display was on Tuesday. All other plant process computer functions are available. Information technology department personnel will be investigating the cause of the loss of SPDS capability, which is currently unknown. No other control room emergency assessment capabilities have been adversely affected.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080807en.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *August 7, Reuters* – (International) **U.S. says submarine leaked radiation in 3 Japan ports.** A U.S. nuclear-powered submarine which has steadily been leaking a small amount of radiation for over two years stopped at three Japanese ports, as well as Guam and Pearl Harbor, the United States and Japan said on Thursday. A statement from the U.S. government on Thursday said the Houston had been leaking radiation from June 2006 to July 2008. During that time, the Houston docked at the Japanese ports of Yokosuka, Okinawa, and Sasebo, the U.S. statement said. Both the U.S. and Japanese governments said the radiation leak was too small to cause harm. The Houston may have also released a small amount of radioactivity into Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and Guam, the U.S. statement said. The radiation leak is a fresh blow for Tokyo and Washington, which has been planning to station a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Japan, the only nation in the world to have suffered nuclear attacks. Japan said the Houston's radiation leak would not have any impact on the plan to deploy the George Washington at Yokosuka. The Houston radiation leak caused a big media stir in Japan last week, with the foreign ministry criticized for failing to disclose the leak promptly to the government and the public.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSSP3328520080807?feedType=RSS&feedName=scienceNews&pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0&sp=true>

7. *August 6, Associated Press* – (National) **Roadside bombs now less sophisticated, more vexing.** Roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan have gotten less sophisticated and as a result harder for troops to find or avoid, a military official said Wednesday. The head of the military's counter-IED organization, said the enemy was more likely to use explosives triggered by cell phones or other similar radio waves. But now militants on both warfronts have moved to less sophisticated triggering mechanisms, such as command wires or pressure plates. Some of the shift came as the U.S. developed better sensors and other technologies to detect and defeat the more sophisticated models. But the low-tech bombs, he said, "create a harder problem for us. We are seeing that, more and more." He also said it is difficult for troops – rolling down the road at about 30 mph – "to have a device that can look into the ground and detect, at a very low false positive rate, a pressure plate that's under there." A "false positive" refers to an indication that signals a bomb is there when it is not.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2008/08/06/roadside_bombs_now_less_sophisticated_more_vexing/?rss_id=Boston.com%20--%20Latest%20news

8. *August 6, Alliant Techsystems* – (National) **ATK conducts successful advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile (AARGM) flight test.** Alliant Techsystems, the U.S. Navy, and the Italian Air Force successfully completed another challenging missile firing of the AGM-88E Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile (AARGM) at the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake on August 3, 2008. ARGM is a supersonic, air-launched tactical missile that will be integrated on the FA-18 C/D, FA-18 E/F, EA-18G, and Tornado IDS/ECR aircraft. The missile is also designed for compatibility with the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, EA-6B Prowler, and U.S. and Allied F-16 Falcon aircraft. Its advanced multi-sensor system, including a Millimeter Wave (MMW) terminal seeker, advanced digital Anti-Radiation Homing (ARH) receiver, and a GPS/INS, is capable of rapidly engaging traditional and advanced enemy air defense targets as well as non-radar time-sensitive strike targets. AARGM is a network-enabled weapon that will directly receive tactical intelligence information via an embedded receiver and transmits real-time Weapon Impact Assessment reports prior to impact. AARGM, the successor to the U.S. Navy AGM-88 HARM system, is a U.S. and Italian international cooperative major acquisition program with the U.S. Navy as the executive agent.

Source: [http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-](http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/08-06-2008/0004863150&EDATE=)

[bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/08-06-2008/0004863150&EDATE=](http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/08-06-2008/0004863150&EDATE=)

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *August 7, Associated Press* – (National) **Pension transfers to banks vetoed.** The Bush administration dealt a blow to the financial services sector Wednesday, ruling that companies cannot transfer their pension plans to large banks to be managed for a profit. The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service said current law does not

allow such transfers unless they are part of a larger transaction that also includes “significant business assets, operations or employees.” Despite the ruling, the Treasury Department indicated the Bush administration supports legislation that would allow the transfers to take place. Opponents warn that the banks would seek to profit from taking over the plans, a goal that could conflict with the pension plans’ primary purpose of paying benefits to current and future retirees.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/06/BUU5126RKU.DTL>

10. *August 7, Bloomberg* – (National) **Bank of New York battles Dershowitz-backed Russia in RICO trial.** Bank of New York Corp. paid \$14 million three years ago to settle U.S. criminal allegations that an employee conspired to illicitly transfer money out of Russia. Now, officials in Moscow want their cut – \$22.5 billion in damages for alleged money-laundering. Russia is going after the company, now called Bank of New York Mellon Corp., using a civil variant of the U.S. anti-racketeering law conceived to put mobsters behind bars. It is the first time a government other than the U.S. has tried to use the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, better known as RICO. The legal fight is spooking shareholders just when the bank’s chief executive officer hoped to reap the benefits of last year’s merger of Bank of New York and Mellon Financial Corp. The deal created the world’s biggest custody bank, safeguarding \$23 trillion for investors. The Russian customs service sued BNY Mellon in May 2007, alleging that it illegally helped wire more than \$7 billion out of the country during the 1990s. A Harvard law professor and a principal author of the RICO statute said that BNY Mellon “got away in the U.S. with a slap on the wrist” and that that Russia is entitled to triple damages under the U.S. RICO law. An attorney leading the Russian legal team said a judgment against BNY Mellon can be enforced in 90 countries, raising the specter of asset seizures.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601109&sid=asjBNhxuowhE&refer=home>

11. *August 6, New York Times* – (National) **I.R.S. offers a settlement in corporate tax shelter cases.** The Internal Revenue Service, bolstered by recent court rulings, offered more than 45 corporations Wednesday the chance to settle disputes involving two tax shelters used to defer payment of billions of dollars in taxes. The questionable shelters, known as LILO and SILO, involve corporations leasing, on paper only, subways, bridges, sewers and other infrastructure, often overseas, and then leasing the facilities back to their owners or operators. I.R.S. officials said that the corporations, including many large banks, had bought more than 1,000 of the shelters, improperly deferring taxes and bolstering their balance sheets. Under the settlement, the I.R.S. said it would allow the companies to keep 20 percent of the deductions claimed through 2007 from use of the shelters — if they agreed to get out of them by December 2010 at the latest. The companies would have to pay the remaining 80 percent of the improperly claimed deductions — a level still likely to leave many with seven-figure tax bills. It was not clear Wednesday whether the more than 45 corporations were the only users of the shelters. The I.R.S. does not consider either shelter to be legitimate. It disallowed LILO,

which is short for lease-in/lease-out, in 2000, and the related SILO, for sale-in/lease-out, in 2005.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/07/business/07taxes.html?ref=business>

12. *August 6, Reuters* – (National) **Prudential Financial settles SEC accounting case.**

Prudential Financial Inc agreed to settle allegations that the firm improperly reported more than \$200 million in income involving reinsurance contracts, securities regulators said on Wednesday. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said Prudential Financial settled the case without admitting or denying any wrongdoing. The company did not pay any monetary penalties. According to an SEC complaint filed in a federal court in Newark, New Jersey, the contracts had no economic substance and no purpose other than to build up and then draw down an off-balance sheet asset held by General Reinsurance Corp for Prudential's former property and casualty subsidiaries. General Reinsurance is a Berkshire Hathaway Inc unit. The SEC said Prudential filed inaccurate annual, quarterly and current documents after it became a publicly traded company in 2001. The SEC said that the improper accounting practices began in 1997.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssFinancialServicesAndRealEstateNews/idUSN0647751120080806>

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Transportation Sector

13. *August 7, AsiaTravelTips* – (National) **AMTRAK orders additional Portable SABRE 4000 Advanced Detection Systems.**

AMTRAK has purchased additional SABRE 4000 advanced explosives detection systems from Smiths Detection to expand its capability for rapid, non-intrusive screening of passengers, trains and stations. The SABRE 4000 can detect explosives in 10 seconds with a full analysis in 20 seconds, completing the entire process in under a minute. In addition, with the dual sample collection capability, it can be used to collect and review both swabs and vapor samples.

Source: <http://www.asiatraveltips.com/news08/78-Security.shtml>

14. *August 5, Montana's News Station* – (Montana) **Tracks reopened east of Libby.** The trains are moving again in northwest Montana as the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) track near Libby has been reopened following a derailment. The rail line was shut down early Monday morning after 10 cars in a train hauling corn from Minnesota to the West Coast left the tracks. The closure meant that passengers on the Amtrak train that crosses northern Montana on trips between Chicago and Seattle had to ride buses for about 250 miles between Libby and Shelby. No one was injured in the derailment and a BNSF spokesman says the cause of the incident still is being looked into.

Source:

http://www.montanasnewsstation.com/Global/story.asp?S=8784766&nav=menu227_7

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *August 6, Valley Times* – (California) **White powder found in Livermore office is harmless.** Some employees were evacuated from a Livermore, California, bill collections office Wednesday morning when white powder was found in an envelope that arrived in the mail. Police, the Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department, and the department's hazardous materials team responded shortly after 10 a.m. It took until about 12:30 p.m. to determine that the substance was harmless. The substance has not yet been identified. The envelope came from out of state. Livermore police continue to investigate.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10117821

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *August 7, Boston Globe* – (International) **Chinese officials shop Bay State for Olympic safety-testing devices.** PerkinElmer Inc. plans to announce that a Beijing municipal laboratory is deploying one of the company's mass spectrometers to detect pesticides and some contaminants in food served during the Olympic Games. The \$100,000 machine, used to find volatile organic compounds like those used in paint thinner and other solvents, is expected to be used in a mobile lab run by the City of Beijing. PerkinElmer says the city plans to spot-check food served in the Olympic Village, home to athletes, trainers, and other officials. Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. said its devices are being used to monitor air quality and test athletes for drugs. In addition, Waters Corp. said it supplies water- and food-safety equipment to both the Beijing and Chinese central governments, including the lab that bought PerkinElmer's machine. Food safety has been a particularly touchy issue since Chinese companies were blamed for exporting everything from pet food to drugs tainted with toxins. Meanwhile, the Chinese government has touted its efforts to ensure food is safe, saying 400 public health officers have been tapped to check the quality of food, water, and air.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/08/07/chinese_officials_shop_bay_state_for_olympic_safety_testing_devices/

17. *August 6, Bloomberg* – (International) **Mexico says pepper farm tests negative for salmonella.** Mexico's government said its tests of serrano peppers and water from a farm the U.S. identified as infected with salmonella showed no signs of the bacteria. Samples from the farm in the northern border state of Tamaulipas tested negative for the Saintpaul strain of salmonella that has sickened more than 1,300 people in the U.S. since April, said the head of Mexico's agriculture and food safety agency. Similar tests by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at the same farm last month detected salmonella in a sample of peppers and water used for irrigation, according to the agency. "We stand by our test results," an FDA spokesman said in an e-mail. U.S. officials are still waiting for results from samples taken from a separate jalapeno pepper farm. The head of Mexico's agriculture and food safety agency said Mexico's tests showed no

signs of contamination at either farm.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=aQmVNEJL.L0g&refer=news>

18. *August 6, WNKY 40 Bowling Green* – (Kentucky) **Public health takes extra measures to protect Kentucky’s food supply.** Warm weather means harvest time for a host of delicious fruits and vegetables, encouraging Kentuckians to add more produce to their diets. The Kentucky Department of Public Health (DPH) follows Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS) best practice guidelines designed by the produce industry, to help farmers apply food safety controls that, if implemented, can significantly reduce the risk of product contamination. The focus of the program includes monitoring the microbial quality of irrigation water supplies; farm worker hygiene; equipment sanitation; fertilizer application; careful consideration of land use in areas near or adjacent to food crops; and harvest equipment sanitation. The department spearheaded a multi-agency GAPS task force that consisted of the Kentucky Food Safety Branch, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, and other stakeholders. The mission of the task force was to develop a voluntary GAPS education program for Kentucky farmers’ market growers and producers. More than 800 farmers’ markets vendors have completed the voluntary GAPS education component, which includes a farm practices self-assessment as well as a GAPS education component.

Source: <http://www.wnky.net/news/local/26345709.html>

19. *August 5, Cattle Network* – (Massachusetts) **Massachusetts firm recalls chicken products due to possible listeria contamination.** DBC, Inc., doing business as World Class Canapes, Inc., a Wilmington, Massachusetts, firm, is recalling approximately 285 pounds of ready-to-eat chicken products that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service announced today. The problem was discovered through microbiological sampling by FSIS. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of these products. Anyone with signs of symptoms of food borne illness should consult a medical professional.

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=242462>

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Water Sector

20. *August 6, Gallup Independent* – (New Mexico) **Plant cited for violations.** The Gallup, New Mexico, Wastewater Treatment Plant has received an “unsatisfactory” rating from the state in six of seven categories pertaining to its federal discharge permit, according to a July 15 compliance inspection report. The utility received a “marginal” rating in the seventh category and additionally was issued a notice of violation for not having two certified Level 4 wastewater operators on staff. In a letter to the mayor, the New Mexico Environment Department’s Surface Water Quality Bureau said the city violated state code by operating a public wastewater facility without supervision of a New Mexico

certified operator. The sole Level 4 operator left city employment April 18, and the city did not notify the bureau in a timely manner. After analysis of the population served and the type of wastewater processes used at the Gallup plant, it was determined the city needs two Level 4 operators to properly operate the facility. The second operator is necessary to provide services in the absence of the lead operator. Gallup Wastewater Treatment Plant received unsatisfactory ratings in record keeping and reporting, operation and maintenance, self-monitoring, flow measurement, and effluent/receiving waters observations. It was rated marginal in the laboratory category.

Source: <http://www.gallupindependent.com/2008/08august/080608plantcited.html>

21. *August 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **EPA continues work to understand potential impacts of pharmaceuticals in water.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking comment on an Information Collection Request that will be used in a detailed study of unused pharmaceutical disposal methods by hospitals, long-term care facilities, hospices, and veterinary hospitals. EPA is seeking more information on the practices of the health care industry to inform future potential regulatory actions and to identify best management and proper disposal practices. This is one of several actions the agency is taking to strengthen its understanding of disposal practices and potential risks from pharmaceuticals in water. “The agency’s work to increase industry stewardship and scientific understanding of pharmaceuticals in water continues,” said EPA’s assistant administrator for water. “By reaching out to the National Academy of Sciences and requesting information from the health care industry, EPA is taking important steps to enhance its efforts.” The agency is also commissioning the National Academy of Sciences to provide scientific advice on the potential risk to human health from low levels of pharmaceutical residues in drinking water. Other actions the agency is taking include: expanding a recent fish tissue pilot study to sample nationally to determine whether residues from pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) may be present in fish and waterways; developing a methodology to establish water quality criteria to protect aquatic life; and conducting studies to examine the potential occurrence of PPCPs in sewage sludge and wastewater.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/65f556ae4b036cc18525749d006431bb!OpenDocument>

22. *August 6, Sun-Times News Group* – (Illinois) **State EPA: Water safe to drink.** Though low levels of several drugs have been found in drinking water, a report from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) summarizing the findings of water samples concludes the state’s drinking water is safe and there is “no cause for immediate concern.” In March, the state EPA collected samples from both untreated “source” water and treated drinking water from public supplies in Chicago, Aurora, Elgin, East St. Louis, and Rock Island, according to a release from the EPA. The samples were analyzed for 56 pharmaceuticals and chemicals commonly found in prescription medications and personal products, including pain relievers, antibiotics, anticonvulsants, antidepressants, insect repellants, and chemicals derived from coffee and tobacco. Chemical concentration in samples of lake water were lower than samples of river water because river samples were collected during “high-flow” conditions, which could

potentially dilute concentrations, so the report recommended additional sampling under low-flow conditions. The report suggested additional chemicals may need to be tested beyond the 56 for which Illinois EPA screened in this study. As a follow-up, the Illinois EPA will continue to do additional sampling to provide a better understanding of potential risks from pharmaceuticals in water.

Source: <http://www.wbbm780.com/State-EPA--Water-Safe-To-Drink/2735654>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *August 7, San Francisco Chronicle* – (National) **Insured patients using ER for primary care.** Hospital emergency departments, typically the medical providers of last resort, are becoming the only option for insured as well as uninsured people who are unable to get care elsewhere, leading to a record rise in emergency room (ER) visits over the past decade, a federal government report found. ER visits jumped more than 32 percent from 90.3 million in 1996 to 119 million in 2006, the most recent year statistics are available, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The author of the report said the difficulty in getting primary care appointments could be contributing to the rise in emergency room use, particularly by those with insurance or on government programs such as Medicare or Medicaid. While the number of people without health insurance has risen to about 47 million, an increase of more than 5 million since 1996, neither that increase nor the overall growth in population accounted for the overcrowding of emergency departments, the report said. The rise in emergency room visits comes at a time when the number of hospital emergency departments nationwide dropped to 3,833 in 2006 from 4,019 a decade earlier. That decrease puts added pressure on the remaining emergency rooms.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/07/MN8N1268D3.DTL>

24. *August 7, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Anaheim General Hospital hit with dozens of citations over staffing, care.** Anaheim General Hospital, which treats a large share of poor patients in the region, has been slapped with dozens of citations by regulators for inadequate staffing and poor medical care. The findings put the hospital's funding at risk and come as its owner, Pacific Health, is named in a suit accusing it of defrauding the Medi-Cal and Medicare. Although the hospital is not expected to close down and is currently appealing the decisions, it must correct the extensive problems that regulators found to ensure that it remains open. According to one report by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Anaheim General put patients "at immediate jeopardy" by not having life-saving medications available, having insufficient food and water for patients in the event of an emergency and failing to ensure the safety of its psychiatric patients. The hospital said it corrected those problems as soon as they were discovered. The report also found that the hospital kept too low a number of nurses on staff and failed to maintain adequate levels of doctors available on site at all times.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-anaheim7-2008aug07,1,7833410,full.story>

25. *August 7, PressDemocrat.com* – (California) **L.A. hospitals raided in fraud probe.** On a Sunday afternoon two years ago, five homeless people being dropped off on Los Angeles' Skid Row by an ambulance caught the attention of police officers. The officers videotaped what they thought was a case of hospitals dumping patients in a section of the city where few would notice or care. But as investigators began to unravel the incident, they say they found something far different: A massive scheme to defraud taxpayer-funded health-care programs of millions of dollars by recruiting homeless patients for unnecessary medical services. The elaborate enterprise churned thousands of indigents through hospitals over the past four years and billed Medicare and Medi-Cal for costly and unjustified medical procedures, federal, state, and local investigators alleged Wednesday. The alleged conspiracy "ranged from street-level operatives to the chief executive of a hospital," said a U.S. attorney. Following raids on three hospitals in Los Angeles and Orange counties, one hospital chief executive was charged criminally, and executives at two other facilities were accused of fraudulent business practices in a related civil lawsuit filed by the Los Angeles City attorney.

Source:

http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20080807/NEWS02/808070380/1034&title=L_A_hospitals_raided_in_fraud_probe

26. *August 6, Associated Press* – (New York) **Suspected Legionnaires' case at Rochester hospital.** A hospital patient in upstate New York appears to be stricken with Legionnaires' disease. Preliminary tests indicate the unidentified person contracted the potentially fatal respiratory ailment, but a definitive diagnosis won't be known for up to 10 days. It is not yet known if the illness was contracted before or during the patient's stay at Rochester General Hospital. The hospital had two cases of Legionnaires in the spring and the bacteria was found in several places at the hospital. A Legionnaires' outbreak at a Syracuse hospital and a nearby nursing home has sickened 13 people since late June. One patient died. The origin remains under investigation.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--legionnaires-roch0806aug06,0,5982325.story>

27. *August 6, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **No room for new mental patients.** For the first time in its 116-year history, Grady Memorial Hospital is issuing alerts to the Atlanta medical community that it cannot take any more mentally ill patients. Atlanta's safety-net hospital has tried to divert mental health patients to other facilities for much of the summer. The unprecedented move reflects the crisis in Georgia's public mental health system, Grady officials said. State-run psychiatric facilities, which often operate at or beyond capacity, have been taking fewer patients from other hospitals amid a federal investigation, officials said. That has created a worsening backup at Grady, where many of the sickest mentally ill patients must wait up to 48 hours for a bed, either within Grady or at another psychiatric facility. Other patients are released to the community where there are few appropriate services, Grady officials said. Crowding at the state's Atlanta hospital, along with staffing problems, have put its patients in

“immediate jeopardy” of physical harm, according to a recently released inspection report from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/gwinnett/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/08/06/grady_mental_health_patients.html

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *August 6, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Inmate: I made bomb to blow up South Bay guard.** A prison inmate confessed to crafting a homemade bomb to try to blow up a guard, and the guard has been charged with smuggling contraband into the prison, the Palm Beach County, Florida, sheriff’s office said. The inmate was arrested Tuesday afternoon at the South Bay Correctional Facility on charges of making an explosive device. According to the report, deputies called in to investigate a bomb threat Tuesday morning found four empty honey bottles filled with gasoline and connected to batteries and wires. The report said the inmate admitted to making the bomb to try to blow up a female guard. The guard admitted to investigators that she met with the inmate’s sister in March and smuggled in \$4,000 in cash for the inmate, leaving it in a trash can in the prison, the report said. The inmate reportedly told deputies he never got the money, so he made the bomb and threatened to blow up the guard.

Source:

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/west/epaper/2008/08/06/a1b_prison_0807.html

29. *August 6, CNN* – (California) **Three charged in federal courthouse blast.** Three people have been charged in connection with pipe-bombings at a federal courthouse and a FedEx distribution center in San Diego this year, authorities said Wednesday. The three could be sentenced to a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted in connection with the blasts, which injured no one. Three pipe bombs were detonated at the front doors of San Diego’s Edward J. Schwartz Federal Courthouse at about 1:40 a.m. May 4, damaging the building’s front lobby, shattering a glass door, and breaking a window in a building across the street, authorities said. The April 25 blast at the FedEx building broke glass in the building’s front door and set off a security alarm, and an unexploded bomb was found in the parking lot and detonated by bomb technicians, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune. The assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California refused to comment on a possible motive for the bombings, citing an ongoing investigation.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/CRIME/08/06/courthouse.explosion/>

30. *August 6, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **County clerk’s office evacuated briefly.** Authorities say a bomb threat forced a brief evacuation at the office of a Cook County Circuit clerk in downtown Chicago. Cook County Sheriff’s Police responding to the threat evacuated the office at the Daley Center shortly after noon Wednesday after they found a suspicious metal container in a garbage can. A spokesman for the sheriff says the office was evacuated as a precaution, and no one was injured. Chicago police say the

bomb and arson unit went to the scene and were investigating whether the incident might have been related to a bomb threat involving a pending domestic court case.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-bombthreat,0,6409922.story>

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *August 7, Sun News* – (Georgia) **WR police headquarters evacuated over bomb scare.** Two suspicious devices forced Warner Robins (WR) police to evacuate their headquarters Wednesday morning. A Warner Robins police official said about 40 people were evacuated from the building behind City Hall about 9:30 a.m. after police found the devices among property collected in relation to a stolen vehicle. Robots used in handling explosive devices, provided by both the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit from the 116th at Robins Air Force Base and the GBI, were used to X-ray and destroy the items, he said. Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives were also on scene, he said. Bomb technicians using a high-powered water cannon destroyed the first of two suspicious devices at 11:22 a.m. They removed the second device from the building and also X-rayed it before blasting it apart about noon. Using the robots, authorities destroyed the second device with an explosive charge that fires through the device similar to a shotgun round, he said. The first device resembled a pipe bomb and the second device looked as if it had wires that could be connected to a battery, he said.

Source: <http://www.macon.com/197/story/424830.html>

32. *August 5, IDG News Service* – (National) **Verizon launches emergency communications service.** Verizon Business has launched a service designed to allow police, fire departments, and other emergency responders to connect to each other on the same network, whether they are using traditional radio sets, mobile phones, fixed-line phones, or e-mail. The new service, called Verizon Communications Interoperability Solution, is targeted at emergency response agencies that have had trouble talking to sister agencies using different equipment or radio frequencies. The service uses a private IP network from Verizon, plus Cisco servers and other equipment, to connect disparate communications equipment and convert them to IP traffic. The goal is “integration of different legacy networks,” while saving government agencies the money it would cost to replace old equipment, said Verizon Business’ vice president of global product marketing.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/080508-verizon-launches-emergency-communications.html>

33. *August 5, MSNBC* – (National) **911 systems choking on non-emergency calls.** In cities large and small police officials and system administrators warn that 911 systems are being choked with clueless, frivolous, even prank calls. In California, for example, as many as 45 percent of the more than eight million cell phone calls to 911 each year are for non-emergencies, officials said; in Sacramento, it could be as high as 80 percent. Those calls block the lines for callers who really need urgent help.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26040857/>

Information Technology

34. *August 6, Wired Blog Network* – (National) **Black Hat: DNS flaw much worse than previously reported.** The security researcher who discovered a major flaw with the internet's DNS system finally revealed the full details of his reported DNS flaw. It turns out it is much worse than previously understood. "Every network is at risk," he said at the Black Hat conference here Wednesday. "That's what this flaw has shown," he disclosed the security vulnerability in the Domain Name System on July 13 but promised to withhold details of the bug for one month to give DNS server owners a chance to patch their systems. But a week ago, some of the details leaked after security firm Matasano inadvertently posted information about it online. In addition to browsers, attackers could target numerous other applications, protocols and services, such as the File Transfer Protocol (FTP), mail servers, spam filters, Telnet, and the Secure Socket Layer that's supposed to make online banking safe from eavesdroppers. Another serious vulnerability involves sites that provide the ubiquitous "Forgot your password?" link for users who find themselves locked out of their accounts. He also showed how the DNS flaw could be exploited to provide hackers with a backdoor or "skeleton key" to the web accounts. He worked with major sites such as Google, Yahoo, PayPal, eBay, MySpace, Facebook, LinkedIn, and others to fix the issue before he disclosed information about that attack scenario today. He said that more than 120 million broadband consumers are now protected by patched DNS servers, which amounts to about 42 percent of broadband internet users. Seventy percent of Fortune 500 companies have also patched, while 15 percent have tried to patch but run up against problems. Another 15 percent have done nothing to fix the hole.

Source: <http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2008/08/dns-flaw-much-w.html>

35. *August 6, Computerworld* – (National) **Massive faux-CNN spam blitz uses legit sites to deliver fake Flash.** More than a thousand hacked Web sites are serving up fake Flash Player software to users duped into clicking on links in mail that's part of a massive spam attack masquerading as CNN.com news notifications, security researchers said Wednesday. The bogus messages, which claim to be from the CNN.com news Web site, include links to what are supposedly the day's Top 10 news stories and Top 10 news video clips from the cable network. Clicking on any of those links, however, brings up a dialog that says an incorrect version of Flash Player has been detected and that tells users they needed to update to a newer edition, said the vice president of information security at Denver-based security company MX Logic Inc. On Tuesday a Bulgarian security researcher reported finding more than 1,000 hacked sites hosting the fake Flash Player update.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9111858&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

36. *August 6, Forbes* – (Nebraska) **No signal? Neb. policy could expand cell coverage.** Sparsely populated areas of Nebraska with no cell phone service could be helped by a policy from the Public Service Commission that makes millions of dollars available for new cell towers. For years, a phone surcharge paid by Nebraskans that gathers millions of dollars annually has mainly gone to landline phone companies to help pay for rural service. Last year 48 phone companies received a total of nearly \$71 million from the state Universal Service Fund. But cell phone users contribute more than half the money to the fund. Now, under the new policy, \$5 million of the fund will be available each year to build cell towers in parts of the state with no coverage. “We’re recognizing that many of the contributions to the Universal Service Fund are cell users and we’re trying to spend some of the funds on cellular technology,” said the state Public Service commissioner. The policy, he said, is designed to help build towers in remote areas that private companies avoid because not enough people in the area are paying for service. Asked why more of the multimillion dollar fund isn’t being set aside to help build cellular towers, he said the landline system that benefits from much of the fund is still a key cog in cellular technology. Cell calls are often routed through landlines. Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/08/06/ap5297369.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

37. *August 6, Deutsche Welle* – (International) **Experts split on threat of terrorism at Beijing Olympics.** Terrorism is the biggest threat during the Games, one of Singapore’s most prominent terrorism experts told the Straits Times. The head of the International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research at the Nanyang Technological University said the Olympic Security Committee categorizes al Qaeda, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), Tibetan separatists, and the Falun Gong sects as threats. Other political observers warned against lapsing into panic or dramatizing the danger to the Games in Beijing. The Chinese capital can be compared to a fortress, and that the danger of an attack is therefore remote, according to an East Asian expert. He added that the most dangerous groups are not in a position to stage an attack in Beijing because they are being forced to deal with the police outside the capital. An expert on violence in East Asia at Trier University called Beijing a “true security state.” The government has put 34,000 soldiers of the People’s Liberation Army along with 110,000 police officers in place for security, an East Asian expert’s research showed. They will be backed up by fighter jets, helicopters, and ships. There have also been some 300,000 security cameras installed, and up to 1.4 million people have reportedly volunteered to

make sure nothing goes wrong.

Source: <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,3541794,00.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

38. *August 6, KPVI 6 Pocatello* – (Wyoming) **Fire in Yellowstone National Park reaches 8,500 acres.** The fire burning in Yellowstone National Park two miles north of the Fishing Bridge Junction has grown to more than 8,500 acres as of Wednesday. The National Park Service said 112 firefighters are on scene battling the Lehardy Wildland Fire by air and ground. As of Wednesday it is five percent contained and the conditions may mean that this fire could grow even larger. Crews are aggressively fighting the flames in the Fishing Bridge area due to its potential impact on visitors and infrastructure. The fire is suspected to have been started by a power line on July 30th. Source: <http://www.kpvi.com/Global/story.asp?S=8799512>
39. *August 6, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Presidential decree on Hawaiian waters not keeping them clean.** Bush declared the 140,000-square-mile chain of islands in northwestern Hawaii the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in June 2006. However, ocean currents each year still bring an estimated 57 tons of garbage and discarded fishing gear to the 10 islands and waters surrounding them, where the refuse snares endangered monk seals, smothers coral reefs, and fills the stomachs of albatrosses and their young with indigestible plastic. Debris removal, meanwhile, has averaged 35 tons a year since the islands became a monument, about a third of the 102 tons of derelict fishing gear collected on average before that. The Bush administration slashed the debris cleanup budget by 80 percent from the \$2.1 million spent in 2005 and requested only \$400,000 a year for it through 2008. Circular gyre currents funnel plastic, lighters, and fishing nets from all over the Pacific Ocean to the islands. The administration has requested \$4.6 million for marine debris efforts nationwide next year, admitting the “additional cleanup and prevention resources are needed to protect this Marine National Monument.” Draft regulations that will guide the monument’s management also recognize the need for funding, but say the complete elimination of debris is “virtually impossible” given the magnitude of the problem. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,398961,00.html>

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Dams Sector

40. *August 6, WJAC 6 Johnstown* – (Pennsylvania) **Army Corps of Engineers to examine safety at Elk County dam.** Just a few months ago, the East Branch Dam in Elk County, Pennsylvania, popped up on a watch list of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams across the country. Now the Corps is planning a survey to determine the amount of seepage at the dam. “They’ll drill down and take core samples,” said the East Branch Dam manager. “This will determine how they fix the problem.” It will be a few years before the Corps takes steps to fix the seepage. Officials said seepage has been a problem there

since the mid-1950s.

Source: <http://www.wjactv.com/news/17115276/detail.html>

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